

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009713

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, CSCE, SHUM, SCUL, PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: DENIAL OF POLISH VISA TO JULIA ZIEMECKI

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS INTERCEDED WITH THE POLISH EMBASSY (MIKOLAJEWSKI) ON BEHALF OF PROFESSOR JULIA ZIEMECKI, WHO WORKS AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO AND RESIDES IN DELAWARE. SHE HAD RECENTLY BEEN DENIED A VISA TO VISIT HER AILING 75-YEAR OLD MOTHER IN WARSAW. MIKOLAJEWSKI INFORMED US JANUARY 10 THAT, AFTER REVIEWING THE CASE, WARSAW HAD REAFFIRMED ITS DENIAL. HE CLAIMED THAT POLISH AUTHORITIES HAD ASCERTAINED THAT PROFESSOR ZIEMECKI'S MOTHER IS NOT IN CRITICAL CONDITION AND THE CASE IS THEREFORE NOT REGARDED AS A HUMANITARIAN ONE. HE COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY THE VISA IS DENIED NOW WHEN PROFESSOR ZIEMECKI HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO VISIT POLAND AS RECENTLY AS SIX MONTHS AGO. HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS IN ANOTHER SIX MONTHS OR SO SHE COULD APPLY AGAIN AND SUCCEED.

2. SPEAKING WITHOUT SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ZIEMECKI, MIKOLAJEWSKI ADDED THAT "SOMETIMES" LOCAL AUTHORITIES
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OBJECT WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL ON AN EARLIER VISIT HAS BEEN "DEMONSTRATIVE" (PRESUMABLY IN A MANNER HOSTILE TO POLAND). MIKOLAJEWSKI GAVE THE IMPRESSION HE AT LEAST PARTIALLY AGREES THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS DENIAL APPEAR

ARBITRARY AND ARE CONTRARY TO POLAND'S INTEREST IN PROMOTING A GOOD IMAGE IN THE U.S., BUT HE ALSO EVINced HELPlessness TO CHANGE THE DECISION.

3. WE HAVE ADVISED ZIEMECKI TO GET HER CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS TO WRITE THE POLISH EMBASSY. (SENATOR ROTH'S OFFICE HAS CONTACTED US ALREADY.) ZIEMECKI WANTS TO GO TO THE PRESS, AND WE HAVE ADVISED ZIEMECKI THAT, WHILE THERE MIGHT BE SOME VALUE IN THIS, IT SEEMS PREMATURE FOR NOW.

4. ZIEMECKI EMIGRATED FROM POLAND IN 1968 AND HAS BEEN AN AMERICAN CITIZEN SINCE 1975. ZIEMECKI IS THE DAUGHTER OF EUGENIA AND JULIAN BRUN. SHE SAYS HER FATHER IS THE ONE FOR WHOM THE STREET IN MOKOTOW IS NAMED. HER MOTHER IS LOCATED AT A LECZNICA MINISTERSTWA ZDROWIA IN WARSAU. TO SUPPORT HER APPEAL OF THE INITIAL DENIAL, SHE SAYS SHE SUBMITTED A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF HER MOTHER'S CONDITION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE RAISE ZIEMECKI'S CASE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ASK IT TO RECONSIDER THE DECISION. YOU MIGHT STRESS THAT:
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A. THE EXPLANATION THAT ZIEMECKI'S MOTHER'S CONDITION IS NOT CRITICAL HARDLY WASHES AS A REASON FOR DENYING PERMISSION FOR WHAT THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT TERMS A "FAMILY VISIT."

B. THE DENIAL IS THE MORE INEXPLICABLE SINCE ZIEMECKI WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT POLAND ONLY ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO.

C. THERE IS ALREADY SOME CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS CASE, AND SUCH ARBITRARY TREATMENT OF AN APPARENTLY DESERVING VISA APPLICANT CAN ONLY HARM POLAND'S IMAGE IN THE U.S. CHRISTOPHER

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